UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIRST COMMITTEE
1st meeting
held on
Tuesday, 17 September 1991
at 5.00 p.m.
New York

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE 1st MEETING

Temporary Chairman: Mr. SHIHABI (Saudi Arabia)

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The meeting was called to order at 5.10 p.m.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): Rule 103 of the rules of procedure provides that each Main Committee shall elect a Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and a Rapporteur. These officers shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution, experience and personal competence.

The elections shall be held by secret ballot unless the Committee decides otherwise in an election where only one candidate is standing. The nomination of each candidate shall be limited to one speaker, after which the Committee shall immediately proceed to the election.

Furthermore, rule 110 of the rules of procedure provides that congratulations to the officers of a Main Committee shall not be expressed except by the Chairman of the previous session or, in his absence, by a member of his delegation, after all the officers of the Committee have been elected.

This meeting has been convened for the election of the Chairman of the First Committee.

Are there any nominations?

Mr. PANDAY (Nepal): The leader of the delegation of Nepal to the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly will have the occasion formally to congratulate you, Sir, on your election. I wish, however, to avail myself of this opportunity to extend my warm felicitations to you and to express my confidence that you will guide our deliberations to a successful conclusion. I also wish to take this opporunity to welcome the new members of this family of nations.

(Mr. Panday, Nepal)

I would like to convey to the First Committee the regret of Ambassador Rana for his inability to be present here today, as well as his deep appreciation of the cooperation and support he received as Chairman of the First Committee during the forty-fifth session of the General Assembly.

It gives me great pleasure to propose Mr. Robert Mroziewicz, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary and Permanent Representative of Poland to the United Nations for the chairmanship of the First Committee of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly. Ambassador Mroziewicz is no stranger to the United Nations, having served as Deputy Permanent Representative prior to his appointment as Permanent Representative of his country. He has also served as an adviser to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Sejm, the lower Chamber of the Polish Parliament, and as Chief Executive of the East European Research Group, an independent advisory body to the Polish democratic leadership.

Ambassador Mroziewicz is a distinguished scholar of the history of diplomacy and international relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. His academic career spans a period of over two decades and he is the author of many books and articles.

Ambassador Mroziewicz is a dedicated and distinguished fighter for democracy and human rights in Poland. He was an adviser for the Defence of Workers and the Solidarity Trade Union. His relentless struggle for freedom of expression resulted in his being incarcerated.

With such a distinguished career as diplomat, scholar, academician and politician, Ambassador Mroziewicz will, I have no doubt, provide the most effective leadership to the Political and Security Committee of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly at this momentous period of

(Mr. Panday, Nepal)

changes in international relations. I propose that Mr. Robert Mroziewicz be elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN (interpretation from Arabic): His Excellency Mr. Robert Mroziewicz of Poland has been nominated by the representative of Nepal. Since only one candidate has been nominated, I propose that under rule 103 the Committee decide not to hold a secret ballot.

It was so decided.

The TEMPORARY CHAIRMAN: I therefore declare His Excellency Mr. Robert Mroziewicz of Poland elected Chairman of the First Committee by acclamation.

The meeting rose at 5.15 p.m.